

<b>Committee(s):</b> Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	<b>Date(s):</b> 19 June 2023
<b>Subject:</b> Assistant Directors Update	<b>Public</b>
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	<b>1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11 &amp; 12</b>
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	<b>No</b>
If so, how much?	<b>N/A</b>
What is the source of Funding?	<b>N/A</b>
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Executive Director, Environment	<b>For Discussion</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Stefania Horne, Assistant Director	

### Summary

This report provides Members with an update on matters relating to Hampstead Heath since April 2023.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the content of the report.

### Main Report

#### Management Framework

1. Progress on the annual plan for 2023/24 is attached at appendix 1.

#### Events

2. The Coronation Celebrations held on 8 May were a great success. The programme included music including the London Youth concert Band and culminated with a set from the 60s legends the Bruvvers and a fantastic light show based around Saturdays Coronation of King Charles III. The day also included workshops from Heath Hands and the education team, a circus performance, fun fair ride and several cosmopolitan caterings offers.
3. It was estimated that on the day over 4,000 people participated to the event. The event was held in partnership with London Borough of Barnet and supported by the Heath and Hampstead society and the Hampstead Garden suburb Residents Association who sponsored the catering.

4. The Affordable Art Fair (AAF) was held on 10 – 14 May. 1000's visitors attended the launch for the charitable preview. The event lasted 5 days and the footfall is increasing steadily since COVID.
5. The Night of the 10k Personal Bests (20 May) was a great success. The 2023 event welcomed record athletic performances and record spectator and viewing figures, with approximately 8,000 spectators watching throughout the day. The Parliament Hill Athletics Track now proudly boasts a UK All-Comers Record time for women, no woman has ever run faster on any track within the UK. This was achieved by the winner who ran 29mins 59 seconds to record the 11 fastest time in global history.
6. The evening was complemented by incredible TV viewing figures. The event was watched by a global audience, from the BBC to European Athletics and British Athletics platforms, with over 50,000 watching live from European Athletics channel alone. On the red button on BBC the last two races were covered live and lots of praise received for the investment the City has secured for our Athletics Track.
7. Upcoming events include:
  - 2 July, Kites on the Heath
  - 19 July, Give it a Go
  - 3 September, Duathlon
  - 3 September, Natural Aspects Concert
  - 19-29 October, Zippos Circus
  - 18 November, London Youth Games

### **Projects update**

8. A project on a page summary has been prepared in relation to the Ponds improvement works (appendix 2), and the Athletics Track improvements (appendix 3). The pond project is still green and the Athletic track is amber due to the high risk related to the tight timeline.

### **Partnership Working**

9. Partnership working with the Heath and Hampstead Society, Heath hands and the London Natural History society is very strong and allow us to conduct a number of surveys that inform our annual conservation plans. Surveys include the long running reptile surveys, plant classification, butterfly and dragonfly surveys and hedgehog surveys.
10. The Hampstead Heath team also works with a number of educational establishments to further research and participate to mutually beneficial studies that can providing important data that inform our management practices.
11. Work in partnership with Royal Free Charity to provide a view of the heath to patients is progressing well and expected to be piloted in the summer.

## **Café tendering**

12. The work on the marketing of the cafes is progressing and a marketing strategy is in preparation. Careful consideration of priorities needs to take place to determine the property or service procurement interests to be market tested. This will include length and type of lease in order to balance and reflect the weighting required by the Charities and City of London Corporation between optimising income generation, ensuring that the cafes are kept in good repairing condition, and aspirations about levels of food and beverage provision.

## **Constabulary Update**

13. The Constabulary continue to undertake general and targeted patrols of Hampstead Heath. Focus remains enforcing the bylaws in relation to dog control, cycling, alongside anti-social behaviour. From April targeted patrols of the swimming facilities have been increased in line with season usage. Currently on average the Constabulary received over 300 calls a month from Members of the public.

## **Nature Conservation**

14. The Heath Ecologist has been working with the Heath and Hampstead Society and several external partners to look at the impact and knowledge of pesticides used in pet treatments. A master's student from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine has been engaged and will be carrying out field work this summer to collect data on pesticide levels as well as conduct questionnaires on public awareness of the issue. Officers have previously worked with partners to assist in producing information about the issue which is available at <https://www.veterinaryprescriber.org/safedogswimming>. Initial testing in 2021 revealed high levels of some of these pesticides in two dog swimming areas.

## **Good News**

15. Just giving has confirmed our registration and now all the steps to progress with gift aid has been completed. We are now setting up pages for appropriate campaigns and links to our web pages to make sure donors can benefit from gift aid.

## **London Tree Officer Association (LTOA) Spring Webinar on Oak Processionary Moth**

16. On the 17 May, the Tree Management Officer and Senior Arborist hosted the recent London Tree Officer A seminar at the Lecture Theatre at Kenwood House. They presented on the evolution of Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) Management at Hampstead Heath.
17. The presentation focused on the evolution of OPM management here at the North London Open Spaces showcasing the emphasis on Nature Based Solutions including bird predation and insect parasitism. The Tree Team also led a walk across the site to a field demonstration of the OPM management approach, also taking a look at our veteran tree management.
18. The seminar was attended by 60 members of the LTOA including Borough Tree officers and Arboricultural consultants. The event was very well received. We have

been asked to repeat the presentation at the National Tree Officer Conference later this year.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

19. The projects and works outlined in this report contribute towards the achievement of the three aims set out in the City of London Corporate Plan: Contribute to a flourishing society, Support a thriving economy and Shape outstanding environment.
20. The projects and works outlined in this report contribute towards the achievement of the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018-2028 Strategic Outcomes A: The Heath is maintained as a flourishing green space and historic landscape, B: Improved quality of life for Heath visitors, C: The Heath is inclusive and welcoming to a diverse range of visitors and D: Greater number of and diversity of People taking care of the Heath.

### Financial Implications

21. Donations are currently being sought for the following project:
  - Model Boating Pond Island - wildlife sanctuary (£50,000). The project includes works to install additional reed beds and protect the island at the Model Boating Pond. £6,303.00 has currently been raised towards this project.
22. Donations can be made via the City of London website: <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/green-spaces/hampstead-heath/donate-to-hampstead-heath>

### Resource Implications

23. No impact.

### Climate Implications

24. Included within the annual plan for 2023/24 (appendix 1) are a series of projects which contribute towards achieving the City of London's Climate Action Strategy, which was launched in October 2020. A key part of the strategy is conserving and enhancing biodiversity alongside reducing carbon emissions. The Climate Action Strategy will be embedded into future strategies which are currently being drafted within the Natural Environment Division.

### Legal Implications

25. No impact.

### Risk Implications

26. Risks are monitored and recorded through the Departmental Risk Register.

### Equality Implications

27. No impact.

## Security Implications

28. Security implications are monitored and recorded through the Departmental Risk register.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Annual plan for 2023/24
- Appendix 2 – Project on a Page (Swimming Capital Project)
- Appendix 3 – Project on a Page (Athletics Track Capital Project)

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